



(2)

PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Issue Fee, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

December 10, 2002

Date

Ayesha S. Wilks

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal

Serial No. : 09/652,842

Filed : August 31, 2000

Attorney Docket No.: 501082.06 (98-0616.05)

Group Art Unit : 2825

Examiner : Belur V. Keshavan

Confirmation No. : 4065

Date of Notice
of Allowance : September 10, 2002

Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A
CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE

Box Issue Fee
Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

In the Examiner's reasons for allowance, he sets forth a particular element contained in each independent claim and says the claims are allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest, among other things, this particular element. Each claim further includes depositing "a second conductive layer" as part of the recited combination of elements, and it is

the ~~re~~ cited combination, which includes the element cited by the Examiner, that is not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP


Paul F. Rusyn
Registration No. 42,118

PFR:asw

Enclosure:
Postcard

1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3400
Seattle, Washington 98101-4010
(206) 903-8800 (telephone)
(206) 903-8820 (fax)

h:\ip\documents\clients\micron technology\1000\501082.06\501082.06 comments on stmts of allowance.doc